PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE SEVENTH SESSION

OF

THE SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY

OF

TRAVANCORE.

The Seventh Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was held in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, Trivandrum, on Monday, the 13th February 1911, and the following days.

The Rules regarding the constitution and conduct of business of the Assembly were revised by G. O. No. P. 546, dated 31st July 1910, and the Members for the Session were elected and nominated under the Revised Rules (*Vide* Appendix A). In all, there were 70 Members, distributed as follows:—

Members elected by the Taluk Voters under Rule II	....	42
Do. do. by the Planters under Rule III	....	4
Do. do. by the Mercantile and Trading Classes under Rule IV	....	6
Do. do. by the Town Improvement Committees under Rule V	....	5
Do. do. by the Jenmies under Rule VI	....	3
Do. nominated by the Government under Rule VII	...	10
Total		70

A list of the Members is published as Appendix B. Three Members, *viz.*, Messrs. E. E. Williams G. Atkins and W. Sawyer, did not attend the Assembly.

The proceedings of the Assembly commenced at 12 noon on the 13th February 1911. Dewan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Chari, Esquire, M. A., B. L., C. I. E., the Dewan, presided. There were present A. T. Forbes, Esquire, I. C. S., the Acting British Resident in Travancore and Cochin; Captain Rupert Berkeley, the Assistant Resident; M. R. Ry. M. Krishnan Nair Avergal, B. A., B. L., the Chief Justice; and other Heads of Departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen. Copies of the Administration Report for 1085, in English and Malayalam, were distributed among the Members, as also copies of the Memoranda of Subjects.

The Dewan opened the proceedings of the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by His Highness the Maha Raja to welcome you to the Seventh Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report

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for 1085—in English and in Malayalam—will be placed in the hands of the Members I shall, as usual, confine myself, in this Address, to a reference to the salient features of the last year's Administration.

Casualties.

2. There were several changes in the higher ranks of the Public Service during the year. Mr. G. N. Krishna Rao, the Superintendent of the Revenue Survey Department, retired in Kanni 1085. It fell to this officer to complete the General Revenue Survey of the State, which had commenced over 30 years ago. Mr. S. Sankara Pillai the Dewan Peishkar and District Magistrate of the Padmanabhapuram Division died in Makaram. His Highness' Government lost in him an efficient and most trustworthy Revenue officer. The talented Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyar, left on short leave in the middle of Karkadagam, and reverted to his own service soon after the close of the year. There have also been other changes, since the close of 1085. Early in Chingam 1086, Mr. O. H. Bensley, the Superintendent of Police, went on leave, and subsequently retired, after an honorable career extending over nearly 40 years. Col. Dawson, the Commandant of the Nair Brigade, left early in Kanni 1086, on leave, at the end of which he reverted to his own service.

Financial.

3. I would invite the careful attention of the Members to the Financial Review given in Chapter II of the Report. The Revenue of the year was Rs. 1,21,03,133, and the Expenditure Rs. 1,19,20,521. There was thus a Surplus of Rs. 1,82,612. On account, however, of the Abnormal Losses, aggregating to Rs. 6,32,334, the nature of which has been explained in the Report, the Balance to the credit of the Government fell from Rs. 71,95,761 at the beginning of the year to Rs. 67,46,039 at its close. The year 1085 closed a quinquennium during which strenuous attempts were made to balance the Finances, and His Highness' Government are glad to be in a position to say that these attempts have, on the whole, been successful. The weak point of the Finances is the Capital liability—aggregating to Rs. 1,17,97,215,—outstanding against the State, on account of the money which had been raised by the South Indian Railway Company, on the responsibility of His Highness' Government, for constructing the Railway line between Shencotta and Quilon. As this Railway has continuously worked at a loss, the Government have had to make an annual payment, averaging about Rs. 2,10,000, to make good the guaranteed interest to the Debenture holders. The question of providing a Sinking Fund for liquidating the liability has not yet been settled. The real difficulty is that the Finances have been *barely* balanced; the surplus of Receipts over Disbursements will, *as matters now stand*, be ordinarily so small, that it will be difficult to provide for an adequate annual payment to the credit of the Sinking Fund.

Main Heads of Revenue.

4. The administration of the Main Heads of Revenue during the year was, on the whole, satisfactory. The 'Land Revenue Demand' (Net) amounted to Rs. 36,00,975 under 'Current', and Rs. 1,58,136 under 'Arrears', making up a total of Rs. 37,59,111. The Revenue Settlement of the State has been finished. The 'Collections' amounted to Rs. 35,88,132, and a sum of Rs. 14,206 was written

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